

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Care Advisory Committee
Item for Committee Advisement**

PREPARED BY: Jeanne Carlton, Erin Donovan and Amanda Newell

PRESENTED BY: Sam Waldrep

DATE: August 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Renewal of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Alternative Children's Health Access in Community Environments (CHANCE) Waiver

OBJECTIVE: To request a five (5) year renewal of the 1915(c) PRTF Alternative CHANCE Waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services(CMS)

BACKGROUND: The PRTF Alternative CHANCE Waiver provides specialized supports and services to youth ages 4 until their 19th birthday who have a primary diagnosis of a Serious Emotional Disturbance. The CHANCE Waiver offers home and community based supports and services to help keep the youth in their home or the least restrictive environment. The CHANCE Waiver expanded services statewide in June 2012 and is now offering supports and services to youth and their families across all 46 counties in South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) plans to renew the CHANCE Waiver for another five (5) years pending CMS approval. The CHANCE Demonstration Waiver will expire at the end of 2012. In order to continue providing home and community based services, the waiver application must be submitted to CMS by September 30, 2012 for approval.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: CHANCE Waiver services are a less costly alternative to PRTF placement. Home and community based services are less expensive to provide and are designed to be cost neutral. In addition, because the treatment outcomes have shown to be more positive with the provision of home and community based services, the duration of treatment is often not as lengthy as it would be for youth who have been placed in a PRTF. The total projected budget for 2013 is \$2,800,000 based on the waiver expansion and associated cost.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: The renewal of the CHANCE Waiver and the provision home and community based services to youth across the state of South Carolina will provide more positive treatment outcomes and alternatives. Approval of the waiver renewal will also allow South Carolina to continue to serve youth participating in the waiver on or after September 30, 2012.

EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED: Enrolled waiver providers, waiver participants and their families, the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, and other state agencies.

In order to gather input on the proposed renewal, a public meeting will be held:

Thursday, August 23, 2012, 10am – 11:30am

Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, 8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

RECOMMENDATION: Revise the CHANCE Waiver to improve supports and services to the youth and their families.

Proposed Significant Changes in the Renewal:

1. Remove the Psychiatric Medical Assessment considering a similar and adequate service is offered through the state Medicaid plan;
2. Restrict the assigned case manager from providing both case management and direct services;
3. Expand the number of persons served statewide under the waiver to 150 and the unduplicated number of children served in the waiver adjusted to 200;
4. Exclude the clinician who refers the youth to the waiver from performing the initial Level of Care assessment; and,
5. Require applicants to provide the Federation of Families, the family advocacy organization who performs outreach and intake functions, with documentation to substantiate the need for waiver services prior to proceeding with the eligibility process.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2013